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Environment Analysis Brief

GCR/EAB 75-4
July 1975

This is the fourth in a series of periodic reports on the condition of the Soviet grain crop based on all-source analysis [redacted] meteorological data, and collateral information. It was prepared by the Environment Analysis Staff of the Office of Geographic and Cartographic Research. The report was produced with the aid of computer modeling and does not represent finished intelligence

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Status of 1974-75 Soviet Grain Crops

The lack of adequate soil moisture has significantly reduced the expected yields in some of the spring wheat areas. The areas hardest hit are the Volga valley, the southern Urals, Kustanay, and west Kazakhstan. In the area immediately north of the poor yield zone, the yield is expected to be only fair. Those parts of the spring and winter wheat areas with adequate soil moisture reserves are expected to have average or above average yields. (See attached map.)

Based essentially on observational factors, as of 10 June 1975 the status of Soviet spring wheat implies a 1975 production of 47 million tons. By early July the maximum possible production and total expected yield should be indicated, and a final status report will be issued in mid-July.

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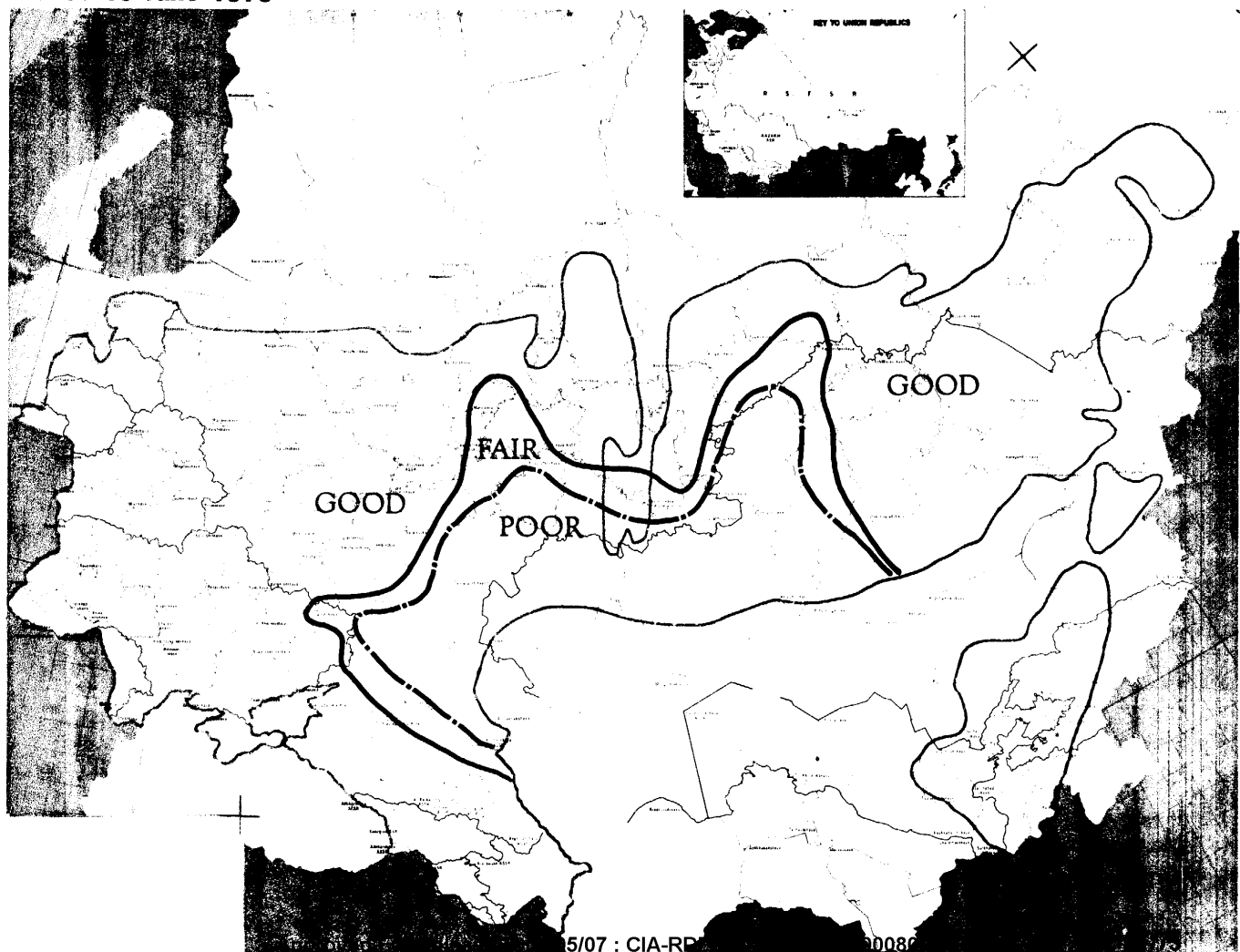
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Yield Prospects For Spring Wheat

As Of 10 June 1975





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Projection of Total Soviet Spring Wheat Production

The 7 July EAS projection of total Soviet spring wheat production is 35 million metric tons, barely half of the potential production as recently as 31 May. The 1975 crop season opened with generally adequate soil moisture except in some areas of the southern Urals, the lower Volga, and oblasts bordering the Black Sea. Until the end of May, prospects were good for a satisfactory harvest of spring wheat, but the original area of suboptimal soil moisture in the southern Urals expanded both eastward and westward to include much of the spring wheat region. A large portion of the reduction in potential production occurred in June as a result of drying conditions during critical stages of crop development (see chart). The map shows the projected deviation from average yield levels as of 7 July.

Projections are made with the aid of a crop model designed to compute daily the effects of the local environment on the grain-producing capability of the crop. The current output of the crop model is first adjusted to correct the bias shown by performance of the model operating with historical input data. A manual modification of the bias-corrected projection is then made [redacted]

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The EAS does not have responsibility for estimating total grain production and therefore has not developed systems of technical analysis for grains other than spring wheat. Nevertheless, it is not possible to analyze [] meteorological data for spring wheat without noting the concurrent effects on other grain crops. These impressions have led to the EAS's current judgment of all grain production:

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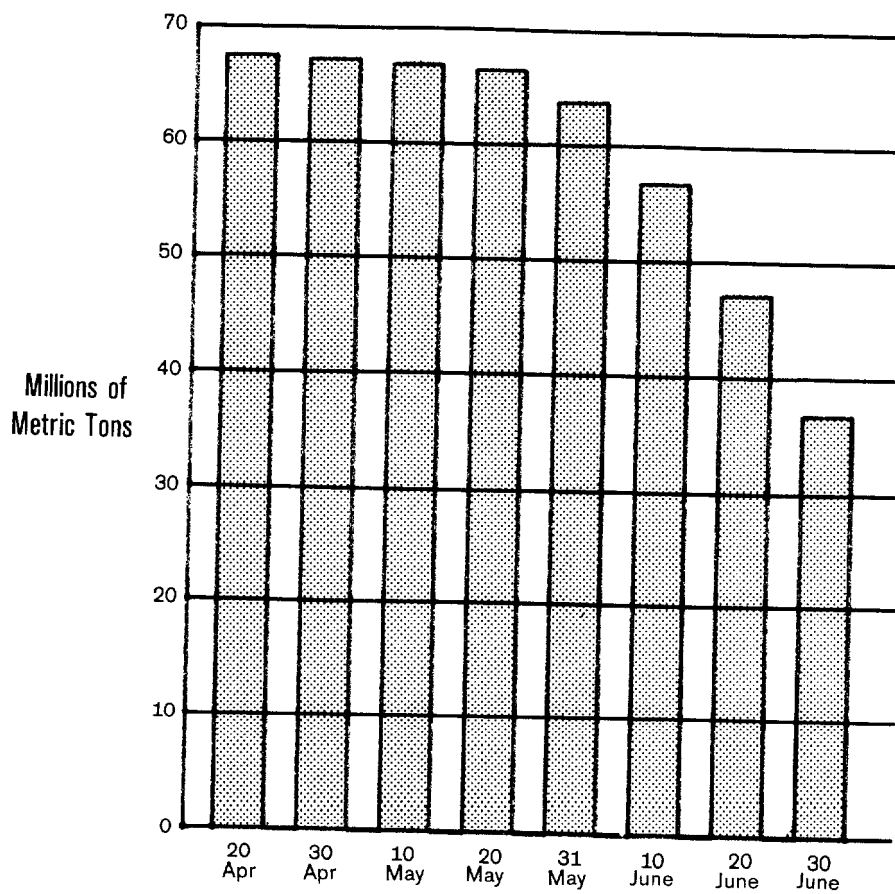
EAS Projections

Winter grains	60	million	metric	tons
Spring grains	96	"	"	"
Summer grains	18	"	"	"
Others	<u>8</u>	"	"	"
All grain	182	"	"	"

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SPRING WHEAT-1975

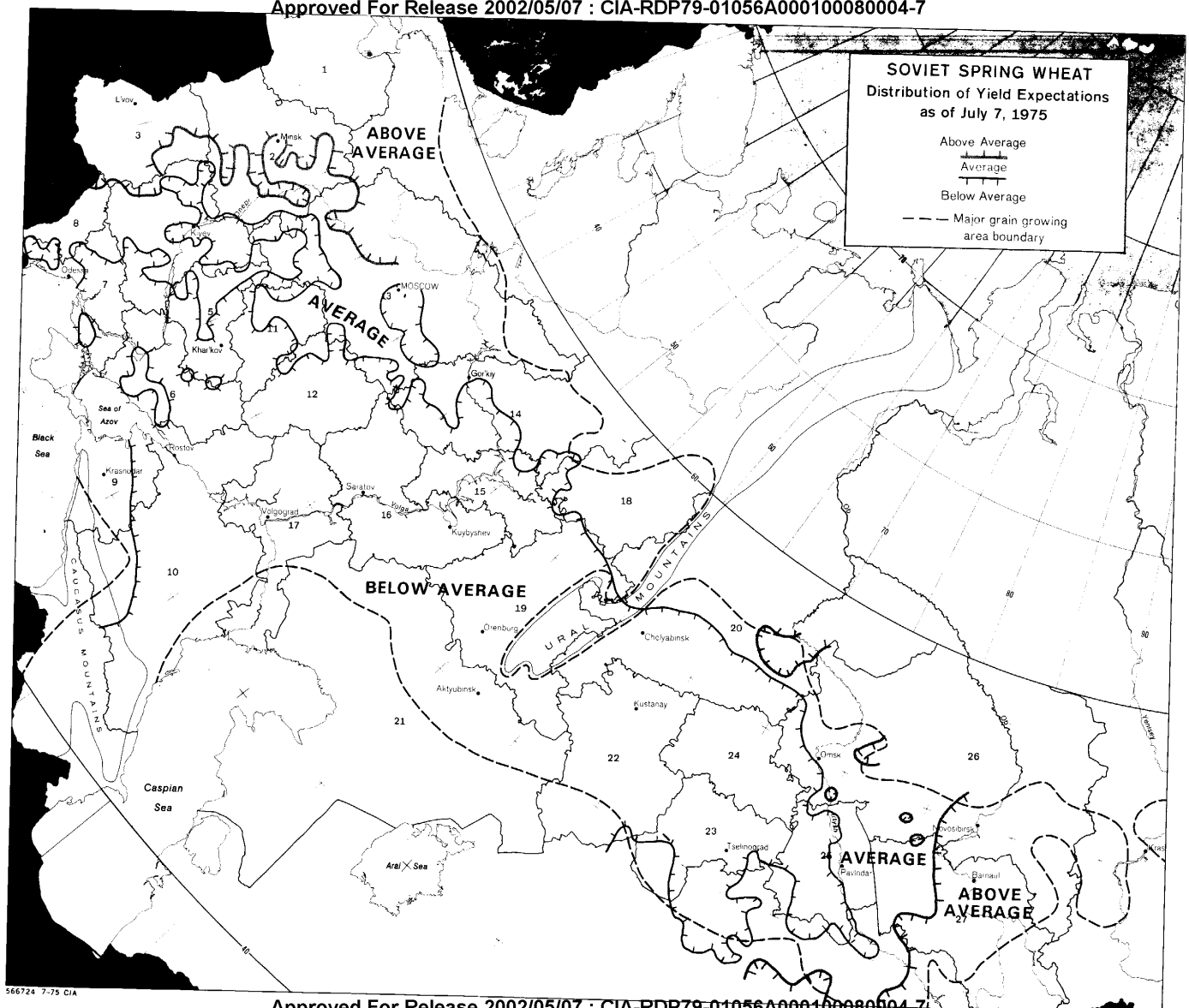
Decade Predictions* of Potential Production



*Based on planting date, growth stage, soil moisture, ETP and temperature extremes.



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Production Potential of Soviet Spring Barley and Oats Status as of 7 July 1975

The 7 July EAS projection of total Soviet spring barley and oats production potential is 39 and 12 million metric tons respectively. (Last year's production totaled 51.6 million tons of spring barley and 15.3 million tons of spring oats.) These figures bring our Soviet all-grain projection figure down to 172 million metric tons.

The barley production potential was arrived at by making appropriate adjustments to our spring wheat model. These adjustments took into consideration both the phenology difference between barley and spring wheat and the greater hardness of barley compared to spring wheat. A manual modification was also made [redacted]

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Since the phenology of oats is very similar to barley, the same yield modification factor used for barley was used in determining the production potential for spring oats.

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Spring Barley and Oat Production Potential as of 7 July 1975

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